

WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION
WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

TIME: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, January 21, 2009

PLACE: Lower Level Conference Room

PRESENT:

Dave Buck	Carrie Ehresman	Chris Pekny
Vicki Burch	Bernadette Farris	Larry Preo
David Christian	Jim Knapp	Kumares Sinha
John Cox	Chris Leroux	Boudewijn van Gelder
David Downey	Karen O'Farrell	Larry Wood

VISITORS:

Ed Boes	Mayor Dennis	Wendy Field
Peter Bunder	Rod Evans	Jeromy Grenard
Beth Cook		

Chairman Sinha brought the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum. Mr. Knapp made a motion to nominate Kumares Sinha as chairman for the upcoming year. Mr. Downey seconded and the motion carried. Kumares Sinha will continue to serve as chairman. Mr. Christian made a motion to approve the December minutes. Mr. Preo seconded and the minutes were approved as written.

NEW BUSINESS:

09-01 Connolly Street Parking

Councilor Bunder brought to the commission a concern about parking on Connolly Street between Salisbury and Robinson. Mr. Bunder stated that a snow plow cannot get through Connolly when cars are parked on both sides of the street. Councilor Bunder suggested the city consider removing parking on the north side of the street so that the snow plows and emergency vehicles can get through the street.

Mr. Downey commented that snow removal on Connolly has only been an issue occasionally, and that his department has always worked around it to get the snow removed. Mr. Buck stated that his major issue was emergency vehicles not being able to respond to a medical emergency.

Mrs. Ehresman suggested that we gather some data on the road before we decide how to proceed. Mr. Buck stated that the Engineering department will bring information to the commission next month (street width, number of parking spaces impacted, residents impacted), then the commission can decide on our next step.

09-02 Sorrento's Pizza King

Mr. Buck stated that Sorrento's Pizza King is constructing a 2100 square foot free-standing building in the vacant lot next to Wendy's on Sagamore West. The city has received a traffic maintenance plan for the commission to review. Mr. Evans stated that the developers are contractually obligated to keep the drive in front of the site open to thru traffic. He also stated that there will be no construction trailer and they are willing to restrict deliveries to ensure that construction does not interfere with keeping the drive open. The construction area will be fenced off, and construction workers will park in the Goodwill lot if necessary. The developers are willing to sign a letter, written by the city, ensuring that the drive will stay open.

Mr. Buck asked if there was a formal easement for the drive. Mr. Boes replied that he believes there is, and he will forward a copy to Mr. Buck

09-03 Sylvia and Vine Stop Sign Request

A resident requested the city consider a four-way stop at the intersection of Sylvia and Vine. The resident is concerned about the number of crashes at this intersection and the speed of vehicles on Vine Street. Sight distance and crash history at this intersection were studied, and based on the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), a four-way stop is not warranted at this time. The Engineering department has suggested increasing the yellow curb at the northeast and southeast corners of the intersection and painting stop bars on Sylvia. This would improve site distance at the intersection.

Mrs. Ehresman asked if a "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" sign could be added below the stop signs on Sylvia. Mr. Buck stated this could be a possibility in the future.

OLD BUSINESS:

08-20 Library Drop-off Box Relocation

Mr. Buck is continuing to look at locations for the drop box. The location discussed at the December meeting is no longer under consideration as it is too close to Northwestern. Mr. Buck is considering moving the drop box location further into the alley, or may even suggest a location close to the discussed mid-block crossing at Northwestern and Columbia.

08-12 Russell/Waldron/University Island

Mrs. Cook distributed design concepts for the intersections of Russell Street at First, Third and Fifth. All three intersections have a Concept A and a Concept B design. Concept A designs involve signs and paint. Concept B designs are permanent, and include curb and ramp work in addition to painted crosswalks and signage. At all three intersections, crosswalks, stop-bars and bump outs have been added to provide a safe crossing for pedestrians.

Mrs. Ehresman asked if the proposed changes would require us to make the affected ramps ADA compliant. Mr. Buck stated that yes, he thought that even making the changes to striping would require us to bring the ramps up to current ADA standards, but he will confirm that.

Mr. Cox thought that the proposed concepts were a "good first step". Mr. Knapp discussed the possibility of implementing the temporary (Concept A) designs this summer, with the intent on installing the permanent improvements (Concept B) when the tunnel project is underway. It was agreed that First and Third were the priority. Mr. Cox and Mr. Knapp suggested we may also want to consider improvements to the intersection of Russell and Fourth.

NEXT MEETING: 5:00 pm, Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.M. Buck".

David M. Buck, P.E.
City Engineer

DMB/wf